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LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF IRAQ AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Joint Russian-Iraqi Declaration.

We should be grateful if the text of this Declaration is circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sergey LAVROV
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative
of Iraq to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Arabic and Russian]

Joint Russian-Iraqi Declaration

Pursuant to an exchange of messages between Mr. Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, visited Moscow on 18 and 19 November 1997, where he met Mr. Yeltsin and engaged in in-depth and intensive talks with Mr. Yevgeni Primakov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Both the exchange of messages between the two Presidents and the talks between Mr. Aziz and Mr. Primakov were aimed at finding a political and diplomatic solution to the current crisis. An agreement was reached whereby Iraq will accept the return of the Special Commission, with its full complement of members, to resume its regular work in Iraq as from 20 November 1997.

The Russian Federation, for its part, will work actively, subject to Iraq's implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, for a speedy lifting of the sanctions against Iraq, and, in particular, for the implementation of paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991) in strict conformity with the provisions set forth in it, and without any additional conditions. To that end, it will take active measures to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Special Commission, while respecting the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

The two sides will remain in contact in accordance with the agreements reached.